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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

Please do everything you can to support, not diminish, broadband competition.

I've lived long enough to watch the federal government shift its core commitment from representing all the American people to rewarding those who support key political and corporate power-brokers and punishing (by reprisal or neglect) those who don't.

I've watched AT&T and ComCast and now Verizon grow too big to fail, and too big for their on-the-ground teams to know (or carry out, or even take seriously) the sign-up promises made by their marketing teams. I've watched these and other bloated corporate giants prosper by cutting ethical corners, not least by diverting customers' complaints to faraway call centers whose staff have no power to solve the problems.

In 2018, communications media are utilities. Here in San Francisco, broadband is as essential as electricity. As an independent contractor, I -- like many of my friends -- rely on small companies like Sonic.net because in a medical emergency, earthquake, and/or power failure, their affordable landlines are literally life-savers.

Naturally the large corporations in the field want to choke out their smaller competitors. YOU, THE FCC, EXIST TO PREVENT THIS! The rights-of-way underpinning high-tech communications belong to the nation. It's your responsibility to make sure ALL the people have access to our culture's electronic lifelines. That especially includes the "gig-economy" indie and service workers who make the tech economy possible.

Please lift your eyes from your screens, look at the reality around you, and stop big telephone companies like AT&T from raising prices and cutting off competition.

C J Verburg